

Remarks

1. Applicant has canceled those claims for which the Examiner's rejections were upheld. According to the summary given at page 11 of the Board's decision, the Board reversed the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 9, 18, 19, 23-25, and 33. The Board sustained the rejection of claims 5-8 and 29-32 and implicitly reversed the rejection of claims 26-28, dependent on claim 18. The Board entered a new ground of rejection for claims 1-9. Therefore, the claims presented herewith are the remaining allowable claims.

2. Applicant elects not to traverse the new ground of rejection for claims 1-9. Applicant elects not to seek court review of the Boards decision.

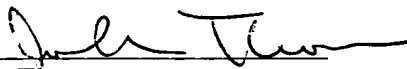
Conclusion

Applicant believes the remaining claims are now in condition for allowance and requests the Examiner to issue the appropriate notice of allowability.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By



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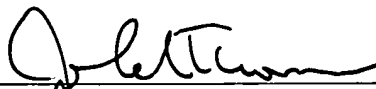
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence will be transmitted by facsimile to the Commissioner of Patents, Technology Group 2600, at 703-872-9306 on the date below.

Date: 6/10/04


John A. Thomas

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